

## Functional Description of HQAS Levels

March 15, 2001

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**Level V** is a master level interpreter-translator who attains a score of at least 90 on the advanced performance test. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in a majority of situations. A person holding a Level V credential should be pursuing national certification. While no restrictions are indicated, this interpreter demonstrates professional judgement in accepting assignments.

(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

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**Level IV** is an accomplished interpreter-translator who attains a score of at least 80 on the advanced performance test. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in most complex and technical situations. A Level IV interpreter may accept assignments for one-on-one and group sessions, as well as workshops and platform assignments. This interpreter is qualified for most medical and dental appointments, and limited legal interpreting including client/lawyer meetings, and traffic or small claims court.

A Level IV interpreter should be pursuing continuing professional education or national certification. A Level IV interpreter should avoid critical medical situations, criminal court and civil court jury trials.

(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

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**Level III** is an intermediate level interpreter-translator who attains a minimum score of 85 on the entry-level performance test. Level III is the lowest level receiving a credential as a qualified interpreter. This interpreter may accept assignments for many group sessions and workshops and most one-on-one situations. A Level III interpreter should be actively involved in professional development efforts.

An interpreter holding a Level III credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, or critical medical situations.

(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

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**Level II** is an entry level communication assistant who attains a score of at least 70 on the entry-level performance test. The Level II communication assistant will be able to interpret during orientation sessions and basic tutoring sessions. A Level II communication assistant may accept assignments where communication can be interpreted consecutively in one-on-one situations, limited group sessions and workshops; and may accept limited platform assignments when accompanied and supervised by a qualified mentor.

A person holding a Level II credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, medical, employment interviews or critical situations of any nature.

(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

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**Level I** is a beginner level candidate who attains a score of at least 50 on the entry-level performance test. A Level I candidate is not considered qualified for professional assignments. This candidate may provide limited interpreting in low risk situations as an unpaid apprentice when accompanied by a qualified mentor. Further professional development is required prior to reevaluation.

(No credential is issued.)

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